

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A cementing tool for cementing a casing assembly at a
2 junction of plural wellbores, the casing assembly having a guide shoe with at least one fluid
3 channel, the cementing tool comprising:
4 a body;
5 an anchoring mechanism adapted to anchor the body axially within the casing
6 assembly; and
7 a flow conduit extending from the body and adapted to engage the fluid channel
8 of the guide shoe, the flow conduit to channel cement flow through the guide shoe to an annular
9 region outside the casing assembly,
10 wherein the anchoring mechanism is adapted to be released to enable retrieval of
11 the cementing tool from the casing assembly.

1 2. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 1, further comprising a sealing element
2 coupled to an external surface of the body and adapted to effect a fluid seal between the body
3 and the casing assembly.

1 3. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 2, further comprising another sealing
2 element coupled to the external surface of the body.

1 4. (Currently Amended) ~~The cementing tool of claim 3, further comprising A~~
2 cementing tool for cementing a casing assembly at a junction of plural wellbores, comprising:
3 a body;
4 an anchoring mechanism adapted to anchor the body axially within the casing
5 assembly;
6 a flow conduit adapted to channel cement flow to an annular region outside the
7 casing assembly,
8 wherein the anchoring mechanism is adapted to be released to enable retrieval of
9 the cementing tool from the casing assembly;

10 a sealing element coupled to an external surface of the body and adapted to effect
11 a fluid seal between the body and the casing assembly;
12 another sealing element coupled to the external surface of the body; and
13 setting members adapted to set the sealing elements.

1 5. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 4, further comprising ports, each port
2 adapted to communicate fluid pressure from inside the cementing tool to one side of a respective
3 setting member.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The cementing tool of claim 5, further comprising a shear
2 mechanism adapted to attach the setting ~~member~~ members to the body of the cementing tool.

1 7. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 1, further comprising flow control device
2 to control fluid flow through the flow conduit.

AB 1 8. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 7, wherein the flow control device
2 comprises a sliding sleeve.

1 9. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 7, wherein the flow control device
2 comprises a check valve.

1 10. (Currently Amended) ~~The cementing tool of claim 1, further comprising A~~
2 cementing tool for cementing a casing assembly at a junction of plural wellbores, comprising:
3 a body;
4 an anchoring mechanism adapted to anchor the body axially within the casing
5 assembly;
6 a flow conduit adapted to channel cement flow to an annular region outside the
7 casing assembly,
8 wherein the anchoring mechanism is adapted to be released to enable retrieval of
9 the cementing tool from the casing assembly; and

10 a first member slidable from a first position to a second position to lock the
11 anchoring mechanism.

1 11. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 10, wherein the first member is slidable
2 from the second position to the first position to release the anchoring mechanism.

1 12. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 10, further comprising a shear mechanism
2 adapted to temporarily restrain sliding of the first member.

1 13. (Cancelled)

1 14. (Cancelled)

AB 1 15. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 14~~ A cementing tool for cementing
2 a casing assembly at a junction of plural wellbores, comprising:
3 a body;
4 an anchoring mechanism adapted to anchor the body axially within the casing
5 assembly;
6 a flow conduit adapted to channel cement flow to an annular region outside the
7 casing assembly,
8 wherein the anchoring mechanism is adapted to be released to enable retrieval of
9 the cementing tool from the casing assembly; and
10 a bypass device having a distal end adapted to connect to a guide shoe at an end
11 of the casing assembly,
12 wherein the bypass device has an inner conduit adapted to isolate cement flow
13 from an internal volume of the casing assembly, the inner conduit of the bypass device being part
14 of the flow conduit,
15 wherein the ~~one~~ bypass device comprises a plurality of tubes.

1 16. (Currently Amended) ~~The cementing tool of claim 13~~ A cementing tool for
2 cementing a casing assembly at a junction of plural wellbores, comprising:

3 a body;

4 an anchoring mechanism adapted to anchor the body axially within the casing
5 assembly; and

6 a flow conduit adapted to channel cement flow to an annular region outside the
7 casing assembly,

8 wherein the anchoring mechanism is adapted to be released to enable retrieval of
9 the cementing tool from the casing assembly; and

10 a bypass device having a distal end adapted to connect to a guide shoe at an end
11 of the casing assembly,

12 wherein the casing assembly defines plural lateral legs, the cementing tool further
13 comprising a barrier disposed about the bypass device to seal cement from entering the internal
14 volume through one of the lateral legs.

AB 1 17. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 1, further comprising an outer sleeve
2 formed of a stretchable material, the outer sleeve adapted to detach from hardened cement
3 outside the cementing tool to enable easy removal of the cementing tool from the hardened
4 cement.

1 18. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 1, wherein the body defines an inner bore
2 and one or more radial ports in communication with the inner bore, the cementing tool further
3 comprising a flow control device adapted to control flow through the one or more radial ports.

1 19. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 18, wherein the inner bore comprises a
2 lower portion below the one or more radial ports to receive a plug provided ahead of a flow of
3 cement.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The cementing tool of claim 1, wherein the casing assembly
2 has a wall separating the plural ~~bore~~ wellbores, and wherein the body of the cementing tool is
3 adapted to equalize pressure across the wall.

1 21. (Original) The cementing tool of claim 1, wherein the anchoring mechanism
2 comprises a positive feedback locator to indicate that the cementing tool has reached a target
3 depth.

1 22. (Currently Amended) A method of cementing a casing assembly at a junction of
2 plural wellbores, comprising:
3 lowering a cementing tool to engage inside the casing assembly;
4 providing a plug ahead of cement slurry into the cementing tool, the plug having a
5 rupture element;
6 rupturing the rupture element in the plug to enable the cement slurry to flow
7 through the plug;
8 pumping the cement slurry through the cementing tool to fill an annular region
9 outside the casing assembly;
10 disengaging the cementing tool from the casing assembly; and
11 lifting the cementing tool from the casing assembly.

1 23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a landing
2 mechanism on the cementing tool to engage a profile inside the casing assembly.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising setting at least one sealing
2 element to seal the cementing tool against the casing assembly.

1 25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein disengaging the cementing tool
2 comprises unlocking the landing mechanism and unsetting the sealing element.

1 26. (Cancelled)

1 27. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 26, further comprising~~ A method of
2 cementing a casing assembly at a junction of plural wellbores, comprising:
3 lowering a cementing tool to engage inside the casing assembly;
4 pumping cement slurry through the cementing tool to fill an annular region
5 outside the casing assembly;
6 disengaging the cementing tool from the casing assembly;
7 lifting the cementing tool from the casing assembly; and
8 providing a sleeve formed of a stretchable material around an outer surface of the
9 cementing tool; and
10 detaching the cementing tool from a hardened block of cement by stretching the
11 sleeve to unbond from the hardened block of cement.

1 28. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a positive
2 feedback indicator on the cementing tool to indicate when the cementing tool is engaged in the
3 casing assembly.

1 29. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein lifting the cementing tool is
2 accomplished without first milling at the junction.

1 30. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a flow control
2 device in the cementing tool to control the flow of a cement slurry.

1 31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein providing the flow control device
2 comprises providing one of a check valve and a sleeve valve.

1 32. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising closing the flow control
2 device to set a sealing element of the cementing tool against an inner surface of the casing
3 assembly.

1 33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising opening the flow control
2 device after setting the sealing element,
3 wherein pumping the cement slurry through the cementing tool comprises
4 pumping the cement slurry through the flow control device.

1 34. (Cancelled)

1 35. (Cancelled)

1 36. (Cancelled)

1 37. (Cancelled)

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1 38. (Cancelled) ~~The system of claim 37~~ A system comprising:
2 a casing assembly having a junction assembly to complete a junction of plural
3 wellbores,
4 the junction assembly having plural branch legs; and
5 a cementing tool adapted to be releasably engaged in the casing assembly to direct
6 flow of cement into the junction assembly and out into an annular region around the casing
7 assembly,
8 wherein the cementing tool has an external seal and a member adapted to set the
9 external seal against an inner wall of the casing assembly.

1 39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the cementing tool has an anchoring
2 mechanism, and the casing assembly has a landing profile, the anchoring mechanism adapted to
3 engage the landing profile.

1 40. (New) The cementing tool of claim 1, wherein the flow conduit comprises a tube.

1 41. (New) The cementing tool of claim 1, wherein the guide shoe has at least another
2 fluid channel, the cementing tool further comprising another flow conduit extending from the
3 body and adapted to engage the another fluid channel of the guide shoe.

1 42. (New) A system comprising:
2 a casing assembly having a guide shoe with at least one fluid channel; and
3 a cementing tool for cementing the casing assembly, the cementing tool
4 comprising:
5 a body;
6 an anchoring mechanism adapted to anchor the body within the casing
7 assembly; and
8 a flow conduit extending from the body to engage the fluid channel of the
9 guide shoe.

1 43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the anchoring mechanism is adapted to be
2 released to enable retrieval of the cementing tool from the casing assembly.

163
1 44. (New) The system of claim 42, further comprising a plug provided in the
2 cementing tool ahead of cement slurry, the plug adapted to be ruptured to enable flow of cement
3 slurry through the flow conduit.

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1 45. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the casing assembly has a junction
2 assembly having plural legs.

1 46. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the flow conduit comprises a tube.

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1 47. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the guide shoe comprises at least another
2 flow channel, and the cementing tool comprises at least another flow conduit extending from the
3 body and adapted to engage the at least another flow channel.

0 1 48. (New) The system of claim 47, wherein the flow conduits are tubes.